TEXT

PASS: NSA FOR ZKZK OO DLS DE (FOR NSOC),

DIA FOR POW/MIA OFFICE.

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

DIST: 24 SEPTEMBER 1993

COUNTRY: VIETNAM/RUSSIA

COUNTRI. VIETNAM/ RUSSIA

REACTION FOR TO RECENT RELEASE OF SOVIET POW/MIA DOCUMENTS AND TO U.S. ADMINISTRATION

PARTIAL LIFTING OF EMBARGO

TEXT: 1.

SUBJ:

RELEASED SOVIET MILITARY INTELLIGENCE DOCUMENT INDICATING THAT NORTH VIETNAM NEVER RETURNED ALL U.S. PRISONERS CAPTURED DURING THE VIETNAM WAR.

THE SOVIET REPORT IS

COMPLETELY UNFOUNDED AND ITS RELEASE IS AN ATTEMPT TO DELAY LIFTING

APPROVED FOR RELEASE DATE: FEB 2001

SECKET

OF THE U.S. EMBARGO AGAINST VIETNAM.

- 2. SINCE VIETNAM BEGAN ITS ECONOMIC REFORMS, VIETNAM HAS BEEN ABLE TO ATTRACT INVESTMENT FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD, THUS TAKING POTENTIAL INVESTORS AWAY FROM RUSSIA. THE LIFTING OF THE U.S. EMBARGO WILL MEAN AN OPEN VENUE FOR U.S. BUSINESS TO INVEST IN VIETNAM. THE RUSSIANS PROBABLY BELIEVE THAT OPENING THE VIETNAMESE MARKET WILL DIVERT U.S. INVESTMENTS AWAY FROM RUSSIA.
- THE GOVERNMENT OF VIETNAM IS NOT PLANNING TO TAKE ANY ACTION AGAINST RUSSIA OTHER THAN TRYING TO SHOW THAT THE REPORT IS INACCURATE. HE ADDED THAT DELAYING THE LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO DOES NOT BENEFIT THE U.S. BUSINESS COMMUNITY WHICH IS MISSING PROFITABLE OPPORTUNITIES CURRENTLY BEING TAKEN BY CHINA, JAPAN, FRANCE, AND OTHER COUNTRIES.
- 4. ON 16 SEPTEMBER 1993, AFTER IT WAS PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED THAT THE U.S. ADMINSTRATION WAS ONLY PARTIALLY LIFTING THE EMBARGO ON VIETNAM, COMMENTED THAT THE REACTION AMONG VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WAS OF GREAT DISBELIEF AND DISAPPOINTMENT BECAUSE IN THEIR VIEW, VIETNAM HAS EXCEEDED EXPECTATIONS SET FORTH BY THE UNITED STATES REGARDING THE POW/MIA ISSUE. MANY OFFICIALS BELIEVE THAT THEY CANNOT FULLY COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS SET FORTH BY DIFFERENT POW/MIA GROUPS IN THE UNITED STATES BECAUSE IT WILL BE AN INFRINGEMENT ON VIETNAM'S NATIONAL SECURITY. HE PREDICTED, HOWEVER, THAT VIETNAM EVENTUALLY WILL SURRENDER TO THE PRESSURE AND WILL PROGRESSIVELY CONTINUE OPENING ITS POW/MIA DOCUMENTS.

